

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

IN THE APPLICATION

OF

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for a

TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

filed with

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TOOTHBRUSH ASSEMBLY

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of the application with serial number 08/777,032, which was filed on 12/30/96. The earlier filing date of this application is hereby claimed.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The instant invention relates generally to toothbrushes, and more specifically it relates to a toothbrush assembly which may contain a combination of appealing qualities to a child, and thereby may promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

Description of the Prior Art

There are various advantages in storing a toothbrush in an upright position, and numerous patents have disclosed holders or stands for retaining a toothbrush in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. For instance, U.S. Pat. 5,444,889 (Barre) discloses a toothbrush assembly including a toothbrush and a stand for holding the brush. The stand includes a cup portion having a cavity within, wherein the brush handle can be inserted. A pair of legs separate and unattached to one another support and are connected to the cup portion. Further included is a foot for each leg, each foot being connected to the lower end of the leg opposite the cup portion. The feet are also separate and unattached from one another. U.S. Pat. Des. 369,932 and U.S. Pat. Des. 370,147 (Petrônio) discloses a toothbrush holder having a shape of a horizontal torso. The torso includes a pair of feet extending from and formed to the front portion, the feet are separate and unattached from one another. A tail section extends from the rear of the torso, the front portion of the torso further includes a recess extending therethrough.

U.S. Pat. Des. 363,166 (Perrine) discloses a toothbrush handle having a first and second end. The first end includes an upper elongated portion with bristles extending from a first side, and a face formed on the second side. The second end includes a lower horizontal portion having the shape of a torso, and a stand shaped as feet. The front portion of the feet face the same direction as the face opposite the bristles, and the rear portion of the feet extend the full length of the horizontal torso. U.S. Pat. Des. 209,574 (Zandberg) discloses a toothbrush handle having a first and second end. The first end includes a bristle head extending from a first side, and a face and arms formed on the second side. Included on and formed to the second end of the handle is a stand having the shape of feet, the front portion of the feet extend outwardly from the second side of the handle, and the rear portion of the feet extend outwardly from the first side of the handle. U.S. Pat. Des. 155,669 (Zandberg) discloses a toothbrush handle having a first and second end. The first end includes a bristle head extending from a first side, and a face and arms formed on the second side. Included on and formed to the second end of the handle are a pair of feet, the front portion of the feet extend outwardly from the second side of the handle. The back or heel portion of the feet are flush with the first side of the handle. The handle has a substantial curve throughout denoting the feet are decorative elements incapable of supporting the handle in a vertical position.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A first object of the present invention is to provide a toothbrush assembly that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

A second object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, comprising a toothbrush having a first and second end, and a bristle head being positioned on the first side of the first end, and a stand for retaining the brush in a vertical position when the stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

A third object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the stand is releasably connected to the toothbrush handle.

A forth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the stand is a pair of feet which are positioned together to form a solid bottom surface and a single heel surface, wherein the single heel surface includes a recess for selectively receiving the second end of the toothbrush handle.

A fifth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which a base is connected to the bottom side of the foot stand for providing additional stability to the foot stand and brush.

A sixth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the foot stand is formed to the second end of the toothbrush handle, wherein the front portion of the feet extend in the same direction as the bristle head, and the back or heel portion of the feet is substantially flush with the second side of the handle opposite the first side.

A seventh object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which the handle is in the shape of a torso of an animate object conforming with the shape of the foot stand, wherein the first and second end of the handle further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of arms and legs extending therefrom.

An eight object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, in which a cover is provided in the shape of a head conforming with the shape of the handle and foot stand, for selectively covering the bristle head.

A ninth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly, that will improve motivational aspects, to encourage a child to easily assemble the parts of the toothbrush assembly together when not in use, so as to promote a superior way to achieve desirable habits associated with good oral hygiene.

A tenth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that will enforce a child who likes cartoon characters to utilize the hygienic values incorporated into the invention, instead of the stark and unattractive existing toothbrush systems.

An eleventh object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is simple and easy to use.

A twelfth object is to provide a toothbrush assembly that is economical in cost to manufacture.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the description proceeds.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become more fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a front exploded perspective view of the toothbrush assembly according to the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a front perspective view of the toothbrush assembly in Figure 1 assembled together.

FIGURE 3 is a front perspective view similar to Figure 2 broken away, showing the stand being just the feet formed onto the second end of the handle in a modification.

FIGURE 4 is a front exploded perspective view of the toothbrush assembly according to the present invention showing a base for the stand.

FIGURE 5 is a front perspective view of the toothbrush assembly in Figure 4 assembled together.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With regard to FIGURES 1 and 2, the embodiment of the invention drawn shows an elongated toothbrush handle 1 having a first end 2 and a second end 3. A bristle head 4 is positioned on the first side of first end 2 of handle 1. A stand 5 is in the shape of first and second feet 6a and 6b. First and second feet 6a and 6b, are positioned together to form a solid bottom surface. The heel of each first and second feet 6a and 6b, is positioned together to form a single heel surface 7. Single heel surface 7 includes a recess 8 extending through the top side thereof and towards the sole thereof for selectively receiving second end 3 of handle 1, and thereby retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when stand 5 is placed on a horizontal surface. The front end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b extend in the same direction as bristle head 4. The heel or back end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b is substantially flush with the second side of handle 1, opposite the first side.

If desired, a base 9 could be connected to the bottom side of stand 5 as shown in FIGURES 4 and 5, which includes a recess 10 extending therethrough and in alignment with recess 8 in stand 5 for receiving second end 3 of handle 1 therein, to provide additional stability to handle 1 and stand 5.

In preferred form, handle 1 is in the shape of a torso 11 of animate object 12, conforming to the shape of first and second feet 6a and 6b, wherein first end 2 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 13a and 13b, having the shape of arms extending therefrom matching torso 11 of animate object 12. The second end 3 of handle 1 further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members 14a and 14b, having the shape of legs matching torso 11 of animate object 12.

A cover 16 is provided, having the shape of a head 15, conforming to the shape of handle 1 of torso 11 of animate object 12, and feet 6a and 6b for selectively covering bristle head 4.

In a modified toothbrush assembly, stand 5 extends from and is formed to second end 3 of handle 1, creating a solid union, as shown in FIGURE 3. First and second feet 6a and 6b are positioned together to form a solid bottom surface for retaining handle 1 in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface. The front end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b extend in the same direction as bristle head 4. The heel or back end of each first and second feet 6a and 6b is substantially flush with the second side of handle 1 opposite the first side.

While certain novel features of this invention have been shown and described are pointed out in the annexed claims, it is not intended to be limited to the details above, since it will be understood various omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and details of the device illustrated and in its operation can be made by those skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the present invention.

Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute essential characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.

What is claimed is new and desired to be protected by Letters Patent is set forth in the appended claims:

1. A toothbrush assembly comprising:

a) an elongated handle including:

i) a first end;

ii) a second end; and

iii) a bristle head being positioned on said first end and extending from the first side of said handle;

and

b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet, said first and second feet being positioned together to form a solid bottom surface, the heel of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel surface, said single heel surface including a recess extending through the top side thereof and towards the sole thereof for selectively receiving said second end of said handle and thereby retaining said handle in a vertical position when said stand is placed on a horizontal surface.

2. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a base connected to the bottom side of said stand.
3. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand for receiving said second end of said handle.
4. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the front end of said first and second feet extend in the same direction of said bristle head.
5. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 4, wherein the back end of said first and second feet are substantially flush with the second side of the handle opposite said first side.
6. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said handle is in the shape of a torso of an animate object conforming with said shape of said first and second feet, said first end of said handle further including expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of arms extending therefrom.

7. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 6, wherein said second end of said handle further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of legs matching said torso.
8. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a cover having the shape of a head conforming with said shape of said handle and first and second feet for selectively covering said bristle head.
9. A toothbrush assembly comprising:
 - a) an elongated handle including:
 - i) a first end;
 - ii) a second end; and
 - iii) a bristle head being positioned on said first end and extending from the first side of said handle;
 - and
 - b) a stand extending from and formed to said second end of said handle, said stand having the shape of first and second feet, said first and second feet being positioned together to form a solid bottom surface for

retaining said handle in a vertical position when placed on a horizontal surface, the front end of said first and second feet extending in the same direction of said bristle head and a back end of said feet being substantially flush with a second side of said handle opposite said first side.

10. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 9, wherein said handle is in the shape of a torso of an animate object conforming with said shape of said first and second feet, said first end of said handle further including expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of arms extending therefrom.
11. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second end of said handle further includes expanded vertical and horizontal members having the shape of legs matching said torso.
12. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a cover having the shape of a head conforming with the shape of said handle and first and second feet for selectively covering said bristle head.

13. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim
6, wherein said animate object is a standing
rabbit figure.

14. The toothbrush assembly as claimed in claim
6, wherein said animate object is a standing
girl figure.